Appl. No. 09/998,915
Amdt. dated: December 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the entry of this Amendment, claims 1-48 were pending in this Application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-17, 19, 21-24, 28, 30-35, 37-39, 41-45, 47, and 48 are amended herein. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled. Therefore claims 1-48 remain pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these claims as amended for at least the reasons presented below.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection, Purpura

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,421,768 B1 of Purpura (hereinafter "Purpura"). The Applicants respectfully submit the following arguments pointing out significant differences between claims 1-48 submitted by the Applicants and Purpura.

Purpura is directed to "securely transferring user authentication information from a first computer to one or more other computers to allow the user to interact with the other computers without necessarily having to explicitly identify himself thereto." (Col. 1, lines 8-12 and col. 2, lines 19-22) More specifically, Purpura teaches a single sign-on method. (Col. 2, lines 23-24) "Thus, if a second computer trusts the methods used by a first computer to authenticate a user, then the second computer can use a cryptographically assured cookie created by the first computer to authenticate the user, without requiring the user to perform an explicit authentication step at the second computer." (Col. 2, lines 24-29)

That is, Purpura discloses a single sign-on method that, as is typical of single sign-on, allows a user to access a second computer system based on his access of a first computer system. In other words, under Purpura, a user can logon to or access a first system which performs any necessary authentication. The first system then issues a token, in this case, a "cryptographically assured cookie," to the user. The **same user** can then use this token to access

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other systems without re-authenticating. However, Purpura does not disclose impersonation, i.e., authorizing **a first user** to access a system or resource **as a second user**.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-15 depend, claim 28, upon which claims 29-38 depend, and claim 35, upon which claims 36-38 depend, each recite in part "receiving authentication credentials for a first user and an identification of a second user; authenticating said first user based on said authentication credentials for said first user; creating a cookie that stores an indication of said second user if said step of authenticating is performed successfully; and authorizing said first user to access a first resource as said second user based on said cookie." Purpura does not disclose authorizing a first user to access a first resource as a second user. Rather, Purpura teaches allowing a user to access a system based on a token provided by another system, i.e., single sign-on. For at least these reasons, claims 1-15, 28-38, and 35-38 should be allowed.

Claim 16, upon which claims 17-23 depend, claim 39, upon which claims 40-44 depend, and claim 45, upon which claims 46-48 depend, each recite in part "receiving authentication credentials for an impersonator and an identification of an impersonatee at an access system, wherein said access system protects a first resource that is separate from said access system; authenticating said impersonator based on said authentication credentials for said impersonator, wherein said step of authenticating is performed by said access system; and authorizing said impersonator to access said first resource as said impersonatee, wherein said step of authorizing is performed by said access system." Purpura does not disclose authorizing an impersonator to access a first resource as an impersonate. Rather, Purpura teaches allowing a user to access a system based on a token provided by another system, i.e., single sign-on. For at least these reasons, claims 16-23, and 39-48 should be allowed.

Claim 24, upon which claims 25-27 depend, recites in part "receiving authentication credentials for the first entity and an identification of the second entity at an access system, wherein said access system protects a plurality of resources; receiving an

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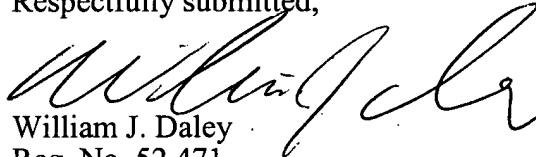Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

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indication of one or more of said plurality of resources; authenticating said first entity based on said authentication credentials for said first entity, wherein said step of authenticating is performed by said access system; and authorizing said first entity to access said one or more of said plurality of resources as said second entity, wherein said step of authorizing is performed by said access system." Purpura does not teach or suggest authorizing a first entity to access one or more of a plurality of resources as a second entity. Rather, Purpura teaches allowing a user to access a system based on a token provided by another system, i.e., single sign-on. For at least these reasons, claims 24-27 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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